

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE SOUTHERN PINES FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR 125 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERV- ICE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Southern Pines Fire Department for 125 years of exceptional service to our community.

The Southern Pines Fire Department was founded on February 13, 1898, following a devastating fire which destroyed the Central Hotel. Prior to its inception, the public was responsible for banding together with buckets of water to put out any fires. In 1916, the town bought its first chemical truck before purchasing Old Betsy, a motorized fire engine, in 1925. After many dances and community events were held to fund the department, the town purchased a new fire engine in 1935. In one of the department's most impressive accomplishments, it saved the Southland Hotel from destruction at the hands of a devastating fire in 1943 and helped all guests escape the disaster without any injuries. This heroic feat marks one of the countless acts of bravery Southern Pines firefighters have performed in the face of danger over the past 125 years. Their outstanding actions and leadership will continue to stand as an example for all first responders to emulate.

I would like to extend my most sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Southern Pines Fire Department for its dependable service and sacrifice. The admirable dedication its firefighters have long extended to protect those in our community does not go unrecognized, and I know I speak for all in our community in wishing them the best as they continue to provide life-saving assistance to those in need.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring the Southern Pines Fire Department for 125 years of exemplary service.

RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—JULIE SCHATZ

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Julie Schatz of Comp Group. Julie is a leader in the complex, intricate industry of construction management. She has been identified and awarded Associate of the Year by the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational,

and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. The Associate of the Year award goes to an individual that substantially impacts the DFW chapter of CFMA. Julie has established her commitment, contribution, and influence in the industry as she has emerged as a prominent leader. Her unwavering work ethic and devotion to advocating for her clients yield noteworthy results in the expedition of development projects.

Congratulations to Julie on earning this high recognition for all her impressive work.

CONGRATULATING MR. ERIC RAUN ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MORE THAN 40 YEARS OF FED- ERAL SERVICE

HON. GLENN IVEY

OF MARYLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) on the occasion of his retirement. Mr. Eric Raun is an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism serving our nation's veterans. He has served with VA's Office of General Counsel for more than 40 years. His career in public service is a testament to the importance of selfless service.

For the entirety of his legal career, Mr. Raun has provided guidance to the Secretary and senior officials of the Veterans Health Administration. He has been involved in a remarkable breadth of important matters including health care eligibility reform, the establishment of the medical benefits package, the creation and development of the State Veterans Home program, gifts to VA, mental health care, and countless other issues.

As Mr. Raun embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that he will recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions he has made to VA, Congress, and veterans of the United States. May his life be filled with health and happiness.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE EMERG- ING BUSINESS ENCOURAGEMENT ACT OF 2023

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am re-introducing the Emerging Business Encour-

agement Act which will give new small businesses a more equal playing field to secure federal contracts.

Emerging businesses face obstacles that are distinctly different from more well-established small businesses. Under the Emerging Business Act, the Small Business Administration would create a new designation for an Emerging Business Enterprises based on the company's age, size and total compensation. This will encourage meaningful opportunities among like-sized enterprises compared to competition against larger, fully-established enterprises.

Emerging businesses often have trouble securing federal contracts. The Emerging Business Encouragement Act will expand opportunities by requiring federal agencies to set contracting goals for emerging business enterprises equal to or not less than 3 percent of contracts and subcontracts.

Additionally, many emerging businesses have difficulty accessing the capital they need to develop products and hire workers. Under the Emerging Business Encouragement Act, the percentage of federal loan guaranty authority for Small Business Administration loans would increase from 50 percent for all small businesses to 65 percent for emerging business enterprise, providing a significant incentive for lenders to lend to these businesses.

We must support all job creators as our economy continues to recover, but there are significant differences between a startup with only a few employees and an established business with a few hundred employees and decades of experience. This legislation will help these emerging businesses overcome the unique challenges they face in their first few years of operation, and it will ensure these businesses are able to compete for federal contracts and gain access to critical small business loans.

To be certified as an emerging business enterprise, a company must be 10 percent or less the size of the current SBA designation for a small business, which is typically capped at 500 employees.

The company must be less than five years old at the time of certification with annual compensation of individuals in management positions not exceeding 200 percent of the annual mean wage for "Management Occupations" defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. These standards will ensure that those businesses benefiting from EBE programs are truly emerging.

With this bill, we can help entrepreneurs get through their first few years, when so many businesses fail, so they can grow and create jobs. And it provides incentives for lenders to provide capital to emerging businesses, one of the top concerns for entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

RECOGNIZING THE 13TH ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL HOCKEY CHALLENGE

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 13th annual Congressional Hockey Challenge, a charity game played between our congressional Lawmakers hockey team and the Lobbyists, which has raised over \$1.2 million for charity since 2009. This year's matchup saw the Lawmakers pull out a hard-fought 8-3 win over the Lobbyists, continuing what is now a five-year winning streak.

This year's charities include the Fort Dupont Ice Hockey Club, the nation's oldest minority youth hockey program, founded by iconic U.S. Hall of Fame coach Neal Henderson; four chapters of the Warriors Hockey program, which are teams comprised of disabled American military veterans; and the Professional Women's Hockey Players' Association, an organization committed to the establishment of a professional women's hockey league in North America. Through its partnership with the National Hockey League, Ted Leonsis and the Washington Capitals, Jeremy Jacobs and the Boston Bruins, the Canadian American Business Council, and other key supporters, the annual congressional hockey game aims to ensure that the sport of hockey is accessible to all who wish to play.

In past years, the congressional hockey game has been supported by appearances from NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly, Hall of Famer Pat LaFontaine, Kevin Weekes, Anson Carter, Peter Bondra, Alan May, and Rod Langway, with play by play at times called by sportscaster Joe Beninati. Legendary Hall of Famer and Congressional Gold Medal recipient Willie O'Ree, who shattered hockey's racial barrier with our Boston Bruins in 1958, has been honored in the past and remains a familiar face of the annual game as an unrivaled ambassador to diversity and inclusion.

This year, our Lawmakers team was once again skillfully helmed by former University of Alaska-Fairbanks captain and my colleague TOM EMMER, along with congressional staff, administration officials, and anchored by Olympic women's hockey standouts Haley Skarupa, Megan Keller, and Hayley Scamurra.

Haley Skarupa, a dynamic and prolific scorer with a name peppered throughout both the NCAA and team record books from her time at our shared alma mater of Boston College, earned a gold medal as a forward during the 2018 Olympic Games in PyeongChang. Another standout BC Eagle, Megan Keller, long regarded as one of the best defensive players in the world, sports a gold medal from the 2018 Olympic campaign and a silver from 2022. And Hayley Scamurra, an elite two-way threat out of Northeastern University with a litany of All-Star, MVP, and Player of the Year awards, brought back home silver from Beijing in 2022. The commanding presence of these three Olympians made this year's game one to remember.

Knowing that events such as these are never easy to organize, it's also important to acknowledge that this year's game was once again supported through the foundational ef-

forts of Nick Lewis, Michelle MacGregor, Tim Regan, Kevin Coroneos, and many others who have selflessly volunteered their time and effort toward the game's sustained success year after year.

Mr. Speaker, it is with this in mind that I once again congratulate all the supporters and participants in this year's Congressional Hockey Challenge and recognize the inspired work of these charities. The Fort Dupont Cannons' devotion to equity in the youth community, the Warriors' provision of opportunity for our veterans, and the PWHPA's commitment to broaden the horizon for female athletes, truly helps to both demonstrate and ensure that hockey is for everyone.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF CORPORAL ROBERT MAHON

HON. SHARICE DAVIDS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Corporal Robert Mahon of Kansas. Corporal Mahon spent 30 years exemplifying the motto of the United States Marine Corps—Semper Fidelis, or “Always Faithful” in his service to the Third District as a member of the Leawood Police Department and the United States as a Marine.

After graduating high school in Placerville, California, Corporal Mahon joined the United States Marine Corps in October of 1993. Corporal Mahon proudly served four years in the Marines as an anti-tank missile gunner, or “TOW.” At his honorable discharge in 1997, his years of leadership and hard work allowed him to rise to the rank of corporal.

Following his discharge, Corporal Mahon moved to Kansas City and began working with the Johnson County Sheriff's Office. On July 19, 1999, Corporal Mahon began his 24-year service to Leawood Police Department. During these years, Corporal Mahon spent much of his time on patrol in addition to a 4 year stint in the traffic unit as a motorcycle officer. He continued to lead as a firearms instructor, armorer, and less-lethal projectile instructor for nearly 15 years.

Corporal Mahon's leadership did not end there. He worked to educate and inspire others as a police marksman, a police cyclist, an active shooter instructor, an original member of the department's honor guard, and was the first Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) drone pilot in the department. His outstanding performance was rewarded with a promotion to the supervisory ranks of the department, and he was named a patrol corporal on May 11, 2019.

Corporal Mahon received the Metro Chiefs and Sheriffs Association Bronze Award for Valor, two Leawood Police Department Life-saving Awards, and the Leawood Police Department's Medal of Valor in 2022. In addition to his career achievements, Corporal Mahon is a devoted husband and father to his wife Vicki, and their children, Garrett, Alyssa, and Julia.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and congratulating Corporal Mahon on his three decades of service and his distinguished career. I thank Corporal Mahon for his leadership and valor and wish him the peaceful and prosperous retirement that he deserves.

RECOGNIZING CFMA AWARD WINNERS—KYRA COKER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyra Coker of National Roofing Partners. Kyra is a pioneer in the intricate, multidimensional industry of construction management. She is an esteemed awardee for Construction Financial Professional of the Year from the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA).

CFMA is a figurehead in the construction industry by virtue of its support for financial managers through networking, educational, and informational services. CFMA grants more opportunities and resources to empower advanced, innovative development of infrastructure in the prosperous district of TX-24. Kyra goes above and beyond by fostering innovative perspectives, judicious contributions, and collaboration within her company and community. She has been acknowledged as a prominent leader and mentor to her company. Kyra's remarkable professionalism and sense of community have allowed her company to thrive.

Congratulations to Kyra on earning this high recognition for all her impressive work.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN ALEXANDER GRAY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 10, 2023

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a community leader, political activist, talented writer, and dedicated entrepreneur. Kevin Alexander Gray transitioned from this life on March 7, 2023, in Columbia, South Carolina. He was a not-so-gentle giant in the community who tirelessly advocated for improving the lives of those in need, and his presence will be sorely missed.

Kevin Gray was born on July 1, 1957, in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He was raised with his four siblings, by his parents who owned the Spartanburg establishment, “Gray's Groceries”. From an early age, Kevin found his voice as a fearless advocate for civil rights and took to political organizing. In 1988, Kevin served as the South Carolina Coordinator for Reverend Jesse Jackson's Presidential campaign. He also worked diligently on the Presidential campaign of Tom Harkin in 1992 and Tom Clements' United States Senate campaign in 2010.

In addition to organizing both state and national political campaigns, Kevin was also a skilled writer. He worked as an editor for Black News of Columbia, South Carolina and as a writer and editor for other African American newspapers across the state. He went on to write, *Waiting for Lightning to Strike: The Fundamentals of Black Politics*, and edit *Killing Trayvons*, among other pieces on activism and the fight for equality.

Kevin understood the connection between good political discussions and good food, and he opened the well-loved Barbeque restaurant